

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Process for producing pipe sleeves (~~10; 20; 30; 50~~) made of mineral wool for insulating pipelines or for reducing the sound level in pipeline systems, comprising the following steps:

- a) providing a continuous nonwoven web (~~11; 21; 31; 51~~) made of mineral wool which is provided with an uncured binder,
- b) winding up the nonwoven web (~~11; 21; 31; 51~~) on a winding mandrel ~~[(2)]~~ of a winder,
- c) curing the binder,

characterized in that

providing at least one reinforcing layer (~~12; 13; 22; 32; 33; 52~~) ~~is provided~~ before the nonwoven web (~~11; 21; 31; 51~~) runs into the winder, thereby providing said one reinforcing layer before inclusion of the nonwoven web in the pipe sleeve, and providing said one reinforcing layer in such a way that during the winding ~~[(the)]~~ said reinforcing layer becomes a constituent part of the pipe sleeve produced as a result, and

~~further characterized in that the~~ providing an outer sheath reinforcing layer (~~13~~) is added to the trailing end of the nonwoven web ~~[(11)]~~ after providing the reinforcing layer in such a way that ~~[(it)]~~ said outer sheath reinforcing layer comes to lie on the outside of the pipe sleeve ~~[(10)]~~ with the effect of a lamination, as ~~the last~~ an outer layer, the outer sheath reinforcing layer arranged around the full circumference.

2. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one reinforcing layer (~~22; 32, 33~~) is applied to the nonwoven web (~~21; 31~~) in such a way that [[it]] said reinforcing layer is wound up with [[it]] said nonwoven web and, following winding, is present within the pipe sleeve (~~20; 30~~).
3. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 2, characterized in that the reinforcing layer comprises a plurality of separate strips (~~32, 33~~), which are in each case placed on the nonwoven web [[31]] and are then wound up together with the latter.
4. (cancelled)
5. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the at least one reinforcing layer (~~12; 52~~) is applied to the winding mandrel [[2)]] before the winding of the nonwoven web (~~11; 51~~) in such a way that [[it]] said reinforcing layer provides the inner surface of the pipe sleeve (~~10; 50~~) determining the clear internal diameter of the pipe sleeve.
6. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer (~~12, 13; 22; 32, 33; 52~~) is a glass nonwoven, a woven glass fibre fabric.
7. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is wetted with additional binder before being provided for the winding operation.
8. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve (~~20; 30~~) made of mineral wool for insulating pipelines or for reducing the sound level in pipeline systems, the pipe sleeve ~~being~~ formed of a wound nonwoven web (~~21; 31~~) with cured binder produced by means of a process according to **Claim 1.**

9. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve (~~20; 30~~) made of mineral wool for insulating pipelines, comprising:
- the pipe sleeve ~~being~~ formed of a wound continuous nonwoven web (~~21; 31~~) with cured binder, ~~characterized in that there is~~
- at least one reinforcing layer (~~22; 32, 33~~) on the inner side of the pipe and/or enclosed at at least part of the boundary between successive wound layers, ~~[[and]]~~
- ~~further characterized in that a~~ an outer sheath reinforcing layer ~~[[(13)]]~~ in the form of a trickle guard ~~[[is]]~~ added to a trailing end of the continuous nonwoven web and wound fully circumferentially around [[it]] the continuous nonwoven web with a leading end of the outer sheath reinforcing layer overlapping the trailing end of the continuous nonwoven web, and
- the reinforcing layer comprising means for allowing separation of wound layers in order to reduce external or internal diameter of the pipe.
10. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer (~~22; 32, 33~~) is enclosed within the wound layers.
11. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer (~~32, 33~~) comprises a plurality of separate strips.
12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve [(50)] made of mineral wool for sound-level reduction in pipeline systems, in particular of heating installations [(40)] or ventilation systems, characterized in that [(it)]:

said pipe sleeve has at least one reinforcing layer (52) which provides the inner surface of the pipe sleeve [(50)] that determines the clear internal diameter of the pipe sleeve, and

a continuous nonwoven web made of mineral wool,

~~further characterized in that an~~ outer sheath reinforcing layer [(13)] in the form of a trickle guard is wound circumferentially around [(it)] said pipe sleeve, the outer sheath added to a trailing end of the continuous nonwoven web and wound fully circumferentially around the continuous nonwoven web with a leading end of the outer sheath reinforcing layer overlapping the trailing end of the continuous nonwoven web, and

the outer sheath reinforcing layer provided as one of or a combination of a glass nonwoven or a woven glass fibre fabric; or includes one of a particulate material, a particulate infrared radiation absorbing material or a particulate heat shielding material; or includes one of a foil material, or a heat reflective foil containing a metal; or is treated with a biocide agent.

14. (currently amended) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer (12, 13; 22; 32, 33; 52) is one of a glass nonwoven or a woven glass fibre fabric.
15. (previously presented) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer includes one of a particulate material, a particulate infrared radiation absorbing material or a particulate heat shielding material.

16. (previously presented) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer includes one of a foil material, or a heat reflective foil containing a metal.
17. (previously presented) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer is treated with a biocide agent.
18. (cancelled)
19. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reinforcing layer (~~12, 13; 22; 32, 33; 52~~) is a glass nonwoven, a woven E-glass fibre fabric.
20. (previously presented) Pipe sleeve according to Claim 9, characterized in that the reinforcing layer includes one of a foil material, or a heat reflective foil containing aluminum metal.